

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00611 251819Z

73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 121561

R 251300Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2810

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUANDA 0611

E.O. 11652: DECLAS DEC 31 1975

TAGS: PINT PGOV AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA'S FIRST "PRESIDENT" ARRIVES

1. ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO, MEMBER OF PORTUGAL'S JUNTA AND NOW "PRESIDENT OF GOVERNING JUNTA OF ANGOLA" IN PLACE OF OUSTED GOVGEN SILVERIO MARQUES, ARRIVED MORNING JULY 25. MET WITH MILITARY HONORS, AND BY RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF OFFICIALS (MARQUES' CABINET, TOP MILITARY, 3 OR 4 DISTRICT GOVERNORS) AND HANDFUL OF CIVILIANS (INCLUDING ODDLY ENOUGH ANGOLA'S FOREMOST WHITE EXTREMIST WIDELY SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN EVENTS OF JULY 11-12). COUTINHO, EXUDING CONFIDENCE, GOT PAST GREETERS IN MATTER OF MINUTES, RESERVING AFFECTIONATE EMBRACE EXCLUSIVELY FOR MEMBERS OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATING TEAM SENT HERE LAST WEEK.

2. COUNTINHO IN BRIEF SPEECH SAID HE WOULD ANNOUNCE COMPOSITION OF HIS JUNTA TODAY AFTER CONSULTING WITH MFA LEADERS HERE. HE HOPES WITHIN DAYS TO ANNOUNCE ANGOLA'S ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY FROM LISBON (LUANDA NO LONGER WILL TAKE ORDERS FROM "PACO D'ARCOS"), AND RELOCATION OF BANK OF ANGOLA FROM LISBON TO LUANDA (IMPLYING ANGOLA'S ECONOMIC FREEDOM FROM COLONIAL RULE WILL FOLLOW). HE SAID PURPOSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE TO "HELP" ANGOLA CREATE ITS OWN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT RAPIDLY, WITHOUT REGARD FOR

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"POLITICAL OR SKIN COLORATION."

3. COMMENT: ANGOLA AT LONG LAST HAS SINGLE EXECUTIVE, ENDING
TRADITION OF SPLIT RULE BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. HIS SPEECH
LEFT NO DOUBT HE INTENDS TO BRING "SPIRIT OF APRIL 25" TO ANGOLA.
BRIGGS

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Message Attributes

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